THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Department of Agricultural Resources
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax 617-626-1850 www.Mass.gov/DFA

MITT ROMNEY
Governor

KERRY HEALEY
Lieutenant Governor

ELLEN ROY HERZFELDER
Secretary

DOUGLAS P. GILLESPIE
Commissioner

FOSAMINE AMMONIUM

Common Trade Name: Krenite, Krenite UT

Chemical Name: Ammonium ethyl carbamoylphosphate

CAS No.: 25954—13—6

GENERAL INFORMATION

Fosamine ammonium is usually applied to plants in the late summer and early fall. It is systemically absorbed by buds, stems and foliage. In most plants, effects of herbicide treatment are not evident until the following spring when buds fail to develop, or develop into miniature spindly leaves that do not provide adequate photosynthesis. The plant consequently dies. Although it is translocated within plants, effective treatment requires the complete coverage of all parts of woody plants. In some species of non-deciduous plants, such as pines and bindweed, leaves may turn brown immediately after application.

ENVIRONMENTAL FATE

Mobility

Fosamine ammonium is a low mobility herbicide and is not readily leached from soil. Soil adsorption coefficients (Kd) for Fosamine ammonium are reported as ranging from 0.22 (low organic sandy barns) to 350 (silt barns) (103). The organic matter adsorption coefficients are more variable and range from 20 to 62, with one adsorption coefficient reported at 7400 (103). There does not appear to be a good correlation between the soil adsorption coefficents and organic matter, clay or silt content of the soil.

In a study using soil thin layer plates to assess mobility, the Rf values (ratio of the compound mobility versus the leading edge of the water movement) for Fosamine ammonium ranged from 0.92 to 0.98 on the four soils tested (103). These Rf values indicate a high mobility pesticide, in contrast to the soil adsorption coefficients and leaching studies which indicate low mobility. This information may reflect the solubility of fosamine ammonium and not its mobility characteristics.

Fosamine arnmonium is strongly adsorbed to soil particles and it is not carried away in precipitation, in spite of its high water solubility. In a laboratory study using inclined soil flats (Fallingston sandy loam), Fosamine ammonium was applied at the rate of 15 lbs a.i/acre followed by simulated rainfall. The Fosamine ammonium remained near the surface of the soil and in the upper part of the flat, thus indicating no appreciable downward or lateral mobility (105). Field studies conducted in Florida, Delaware and Illinois have confirmed the laboratory results and indicate very little or no downward movement in soil of the herbicide or its degradation products (15, 104, 105).

Field studies indicate that Fosamine ammonium has low vertical mobility but, soils with higher adsorption capacities will tend to retard movement more than soil with lower adsorption capacities (15). However, Fosamine ammonium may move with the soil during erosion (14). Due to strong adsorption of fosamine ammonium to soil particles, there is little tendency for ground water contamination or for surface waters to become contaminated without direct application of the material (14, 15).

In the field studies, the Delaware soil (Keyport silt loam) was the most representative soil of Massachusetts conditions. However, the Fallsington sandy loam which was used in the greenhouse studies represents a close approximation to Massachusetts soils. In these studies Fosamine ammonium exhibited slight tendency to leach in both those soils. Consequently, it is expected that fosamine ammonium will exhibit slight leaching in Massachusetts soils.

Persistence

The major route of Fosamine ammonium degradation is metabolism by soil microorganisms. Fosamine ammonium is stable to degradation by hydrolysis at pH values 5, 7, and 9; it is also stable to photodegradation (10, 14, 101, 102).

Fosamine ammonium is not considered a persistent compound in soils. Under field conditions in Florida, Delaware and Illinois, the half-life of Fosamine ammonium in soils was approximately one week following the application of 10 lbs/acre (104).

In the field, the metabolite carbamoylphosphonic acid (CPA) was found several days after initial soil treatment. All Fosamine ammonium and CPA had disappeared completely by 3 to 6 months (14, 15).

Greenhouse soil studies indicate a half-life of about 10 days, which is in close agreement with the field study half—life (15,104). In the field, Fosamine ammonium was metabolized to CPA more quickly in fine sand than in two silt barns (14, 104).

There is little persistence information in the literature for Fosamine ammonium and the only reported field degradation rates are from one study. This might be a cause for concern were it not for the close agreement in soil half-lives reported, not withstanding the varied location and soils used in the field studies. Moreover, the greenhouse degradation study was also in close agreement with the reported field half-life.

It is assumed that the half-lives reported in the previous study have been obtained in spring to summer conditions, since they were not stated. The degradation of fosamine ammonium was investigated for a one year period in the previous study but, because of the short half-life complete degradation had occurred before the winter. It is expected that fosamine ammonium will be applied in summer or fall only since it must be applied to full foliage for control. Consequently, the lack of winter degradation rates is not a major concern.

With most herbicides soil characteristics and local climatic factors have a pronounced effect on soil half—life. This study suggest that degradation of Fosamine ammonium by soil microorganisms is not influenced by soil characteristics or local climate to any appreciable extent.

Due to the similar persistence of Fosamine ammonium in all locations and soils there is no most representative location. In this case, all sites represent expected persistence. Therefore, the half-life of Fosamine ammonium under Massachusetts condition is expected to be approximately one week.

TOXICITY REVIEW

Acute (Mammalian)

The oral LD5Os have been determined for both the formulated product and the formulated product plus surfactant (41.1 to 42% active ingredient (ai) in both cases). The LD5Os in the male rat were 24,400 mg (ai) (formulated product)/kg and 7,295 mg (ai) (formulated product with surfactant)/kg. Female rats had

an LD50 of 5,000 (ai) mg (formulated product with surfactant)/kg. The formulated product has an LD50 of 7,380 mg(ai)/kg (formulated product) in male guinea pigs (107).

Fosamine ammonium was tested in an acute dermal study. 10 ml of the formulated product at a dose of 1,683 mg(ai)/kg resulted in no mortalities and no clinical signs of toxicity (107). The formulation plus surfactant was tested in rabbits and was not a primary eye irritant. There was mild transient erythema in tested skin. No sensitization was found in Guinea pigs (107).

The formulation plus surfactant (0.1 ml) produced transient mild corneal opacity and transient conjunctual irritation. The formulation without the surfactant was not an irritant (107).

Metabolism

The metabolism of Fosamine ammonium in the rat is rapid with 86% in feces and 11% in urine after 48 hrs (103,15). Compounds identified in the feces included 14C radiolabelled fosamine ammonium (86%) and 14C Carbamoylphosphonic Acid (CPA) diammonium salt (14%). The compnunds identified in the urine were also fosamine ammonium and CPA (103).

Subchronic and chronic feeding studies have been performed using several species, for various time periods.

The No Observable Effect Level (NOEL) for Fosamine Ammonium in diet studies for rats (90 day), dog (6 month), and sheep (90 day) were: 5,000/10,000 ppm, (286/572 mg/kg); 1,000 ppm (40 mg/kg) and 2,000/2,500 ppm highest dose tested (HDT) respectively (107). In the feeding studies the dose was increased after a certain time point when effects were not observed at the lower dose. These dose groups are written first dose/increased dose. In the six month dog study, the female dogs receiving 5000/7500/10000 ppm had increased stomach weights (107).

Oncogenicity Studies

Long term carcinogenicity studies are not available. These studies have not been required by EPA as there are no food uses proposed for Krenite.

Mutagenicity Studies

Mutagenicity testing has been done using Fosamine Ammonium formulated product. It was negative in 5 strains of the Ames assay, and negative both with and without activation in Chinese Hamster ovary point mutation assay. Chromosome damage was produced in the in vitro cytogenetic assay using Chinese Hamster ovary cells at 1.6% and 3.2 formulation (nonactivated) and 1.4, 2.8 and 5.7% formulation (activated) (107). There were no compound related increases in chromosomal aberrations in an in vivo bone marrow study and no changes in unscheduled DNA synthesis in rat hepatocytes (107).

Developmental Studies

The developmental studies that have been performed using fosamine ammonium include a one generation/two litter rat study and a rat oral teratogenicity study. The doses in the 90 day reproduction study were 0, 200, 1,000 and 5,000/10,000 ppm (0, 11, 57 and 285/570 mg/kg/d). There were no effects observed on reproduction and lactation in the reproduction study (NOEL = 5,000/10,000 ppm HOT). The doses in the teratogenicity study were 0, 200, 1,000 and 5,000/10,000 ppm (0, 11, 57 and 285/570 mg/kg/d). There were no effects observed on teratogenicity and fetoxicity at the 1,000 ppm dose level(107).

(a) In these discussions the assumptions made for conversion of ppm (diet) to mg/kg/D were:

Species	Body weight (kg)	Intake (kg)
Rat	0.35	0.020
Mouse	0.03	0.004
Dog	10	0.4

Avian

Unformulated Fosamine ammonium was administered to Mallard ducks and bobwhite quail by intubation in acute toxicity studies. Five birds per species-sex group received doses of 0, 312.5, 625, 1,250, 2,500, and 5,000 mg/kg. The LD50 was greater than 5,000 mg/kg in both the ducks and quail (15, 107).

Ducks and quail were also used in subacute dietary studies at doses of 0, 625, 1,250, 2,500, 5,000 and 10,000 ppm in the diet for 5 days. Basal diet was given for the last three days of the 8 day exposure. The 8 day LC50 in the diet was greater than 10,000 ppm. There was no increase in duck mortality: food consumption was depressed but body weight gain was normal. There was variable quail mortality and food consumption and body weight were decreased as compared with control (15, 107).

Invertebrates:

Fosamine ammonium toxicity has been determined for only a very few microorganisms and invertebrates. The available studies indicate that Fosamine ammonium has a very low acute toxicity to those organisms tested (15):

Fosamine ammonium salt (42% formulation): 48 hr LC5Os range from 1,524 mg/L for Daphnia to 10,000 mg/L for bees sprayed with the herbicide.

Aquatic Species (fish):

Fosamine ammonium has a very low toxicity to those fish species tested.

Fosamine ammonium salt (42% formulation): 96 hr LC5Os range from 670 mg/L for bluegill sunfish to 8,290 mg/L for coho salmon (15).

Except for the LC5O of 670 mg/L for the bluegill sunfish, reported adult fish LC5Os are all in excess of 1000 mg/L. (15) The yolk-sac fry stage in salmonids was the most sensitive to Fosamine ammonium.

Threshold-effect concentrations of Krenite for salmonids in partial life-cycle studies are less than 75 times the maximum theoretical concentration of Krenite that would be found in shallow waters due to direct overhead spray application (15).

SUMMARY

Fosamine ammonium is not persistent in the environment and is a low mobility herbicide in soil. Fosamine ammonium has a low potential to leach to groundwater or to reach surface waters from surface runoff. With acute oral LD5Os in rats of greater than 5,000 mg/kg, Fosamine ammonium is considered to be of low acute and subchronic mammalian toxicity. Subchronic exposures to Fosamine ammonium resulted in NOELS of greater than 1,000 ppm in a 6 month dog study. Mutagenicity test were negative in all but one case and there are no carcinogenicity data for this active ingredient. Fosamine ammonium is also considered to have very low aquatic and invertebrate acute toxicity.

REFERENCES

1. The Agrochemicals Handbook: 1983
Reference manual to chemical pesticides
Pub. by The Royal Society of Chemistry
The University, Nottingham NG7 2RD, England

10. The Herbicide Handbook: 1983 Fifth Ed.
Handbook of the Weed Science Society of America

Pub. by the Weed Science Society of America, Champaign, Ill.

14. GIER Generic Environmental Impact Report: 1985
Control of vegetation of utilities & Railroad Right of Way Pub. by Harrison Biotec, Cambridge, MA

15. Pesticide Background Statements: Aug. 1984
USDA Forest Service Agriculture Handbook #633 Vol. 1

100. Octanol/Water Partition Coefficient (Kow) of Fosamine Ammonium. Berus, J.S. and Breaux, E.J., DuPont Report.

101. Hydrolysis of [Carbonyl—14C] Fosamir~e Animonium. M Koeppl, Mary K., Dupon Report No. AMR-567-86.

102. Photodegradation of [Carbonyl-14C] Fosamine Ammonium on Soil. Scott, Martin T., DuPont Report No. AMR-560-86.

103. Batch Equilibrium (Adsorption/Desorption) and Soil Thin—Layer Chromatography Studies with [Carbonyl-14CJ Fosamine Ammonium. Priester, Thomas, M. and Sheftic, George D., DuPont Report No. AMR-632 -86.

104. Han, Jerry C-Y. (1979) Stability of [C] Fosamine Ammonium in Water and Soils.
3. Agr. Food Chem. 27, 3

105. TRW. (1981) Environmental Fates and Impacts of Major FOrest Use Pesticides. USEPA. Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances. Contract No. 68-02—3174., Washington D.C.

107. Schneider, P.W. and Kaplan, A.M. (1983 Toxicological Information Fosamine Arirnonium Dupont).